

## EARLY PLANNING GRANT (EPG) PROGRAM

The Early Planning Grant (EPG) program is designed to help individual entrepreneurs and small businesses throughout Wisconsin obtain the professional services necessary to evaluate the feasibility of a proposed start up or expansion. Under the EPG program, the Wisconsin Entrepreneurs' Network (WEN) – with funding from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce – can provide applicants with a grant to help cover a portion of the cost of hiring a qualified, independent third party to develop a comprehensive business plan.

Eligible applicants include Wisconsin individuals and small (50 employees or less) for-profit businesses, cooperatives & childcare centers in one of the following industrial categories:

- Automation
- Agriculture/Food Products
- Biotechnology
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing
- Medical Devices
- Paper/Forest Products
- Printing
- Tourism
- Childcare (not including in-home childcare)

The Wisconsin Entrepreneurial Network (WEN) administers the EPG program and other grant programs. WEN is a collaboration of the University of Wisconsin- Extension, the Wisconsin Technical College System, WiSys Technology Foundation, and the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and includes four regional centers located statewide, 25 outreach and intake centers, and 26 agricultural counselors. The WEN Grant Navigator tool ([http://www.wenportal.org/financing\\_grants/?Id=132](http://www.wenportal.org/financing_grants/?Id=132)) will assist ETG applicants in applying for the ETG and other available grant programs. Based on responses to a few questions, applicants will be directed to a description and application form for a grant program that most closely matches your needs. You may also contact WEN by phone 608-263-0398.